

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /092 W

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P R 181332Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8853

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJECT: PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER IN MOSCOW FOR HIGH
LEVEL TALKS

1. SUMMARY. SEPTEMBER 18 PRAVDA REPORTS MEETINGS IN MOSCOW
BETWEEN PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FARUQ AL QADDUMI AND
GROMYKO (SEPTEMBER 17) AND CC CPSU FUNCTIONARIES ZAGLADIN AND
RUMYANTSEV (NO DATE). DISCUSSIONS REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON
LEBANESE SITUATION. EMBASSY SEES SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN FACT THAT
NO MENTION IS MADE IN ARTICLE OF NEED FOR SYRIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL
FROM LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FBIS TEXT OF PRAVDA ARTICLE WHICH IS
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WRITTEN IN COMMUNIQUE STYLE.

3. FOLLOWING POINTS STRIKE US:

-- DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOVIET AND PLO POSITIONS CAN BE DEDUCED FROM PRAVDA'S DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENCE IN ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING QADDUMI'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE TALKS ("WARM, FRIENDLY") AND HIS "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" WITH GROMYKO WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ONLY A "FRIENDLY" ATMOSPHERE.

4. -- NO MENTION IS MADE IN PRAVDA ACCOUNT OF NEED FOR SYRIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL, A THEME WHICH SOVIETS HAVE BEEN SOUNDING MORE FORCEFULLY IN LAST FEW WEEKS. THIS, PLUS PRAVDA ARTICLE'S EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF LEBANESE CEASEFIRE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN ORDER TO ENABLE ARAB PROGRESSIVE FORCES "ESPECIALLY THOSE DRAWN INTO LEBANESE EVENTS" TO FIND A PATH TOWARD COOPERATION, INDICATES THAT SOVIETS MAY NOW BE APPLYING SOME PRESSURE TO PALESTINIAN SIDE IN ORDER TO MOVE THEM CLOSER TO SYRIANS.

5. -- TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS -- ON EVE OF SARKIS' ACCESSION TO OFFICE, AT SAME TIME AS CAIRO MEETINGS -- SURELY SUGGESTS AIM OF INSERTING SOVIET INFLUENCE AT MOST PROPITIOUS MOMENT FOR ITS MAXIMUM REALIZATION.

6. AL-AHRAM CORRESPONDENT INFORMS US THAT QADDUMI LEFT MOSCOW MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 18 AFTER BEING HERE "SEVERAL DAYS". WE ASSUME HE MET FIRST WITH INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CC CPSU (FIRSTDEPUTY CHIEF ZAGLADIN AND DEPUTY CHIEF RUMYANTSEV) AND THEN WITH GROMYKO. PRAVDA ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT CC CPSU CHIEF PONOMAREV, AND THERE IS SOME DOUBT WHETHER PONOMAREV IS EVEN IN TOWN.

2. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, QADDUMI WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TALKS BY LOCAL PLO REP ASH-SHA'IR. WE NOTE THAT INTERVIEW WITH ASH-SHA'IR IS SCHEDULED FOR MOSCOW TV THIS EVENING. TITLE: "IMPERIALIST PLOT IN LEBANON."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW14718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0682
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmsc.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER IN MOSCOW FOR HIGH LEVEL TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, LE, PLO, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH), (FARUQ AL QADDUMI),
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006